

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12 and 16-20 are amended.

Applicant appreciates that the Office Action indicates that claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 21 and 25 are allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-20 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 16-20 are amended to obviate this rejection in view of the Examiner's helpful comments. The claims are further amended for the sake of clarity. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are not narrowed by such amendments. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-20 and 22-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAC:JFH/ldg

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: December 15, 2003

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